



# Transfusion Samples Labelling Process

New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) are updating their sample labelling for group & hold (transfusion) samples, as per below. Pathlab will also be moving to the same criteria effective Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to ensure we can continue to refer samples to NZBS.

**Please circulate this updated process to any staff who may collect samples.**

## **New criteria – label it correctly or re-collect**

From Monday, November 7, 2022, all blood sample labels must be handwritten and contain the following information:

- The patient's family name and given name.
- The patient's NHI and date of birth.
- The date and time the sample was collected.
- The signature or initials of the person collecting the blood sample.

Mislabelled blood samples cover the following scenarios:

- Sample or request form has incomplete, incorrect or misspelled patient information.
- Sample or request form is missing information or signatures/initials.
- Sample has a patient sticky label attached to it, or evidence that a sticky label has been removed from the sample.
- Sample has only the NHI or only their date of birth.

**A new sample will need to be collected for any error in sample and/or form labelling. Samples will no longer be able to be corrected.**

Thank you for your support with this change.

**Mark Howard, Lead of Specialty Transfusion**

CLINICAL UPDATE

**Please ensure all members of your institution  
receive a copy of this clinical update.**